DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1.   In response to the office action mailed on 9/28/09, applicant filed an amendment on

12/28/09.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments, see communication, filed 12/28/09, with respect to the pending

claims have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of the pending claims has

been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee.

        Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with

Melissa Beede (Reg. No. 54,986) on 3/22/10.

In the claims

        Please amend claim 19 as follows:

        A computer-implemented method of disambiguating database search results within a

speech interface, the method comprising:

        retrieving multiple database entries responsive to a database search, wherein said

retrieved database entries include a plurality of common data fields;

processing the common data fields of said retrieved database entries, said processing

comprising identifying at least one first data field having at least one data item that is

unpronounceable, and excluding said at least one first data field from use as a disambiguation

data field based on said identification;

selecting a second data field from among said plurality of common data fields for use as a

disambiguation data field for the retrieved database entries; and

presenting, through the speech interface, data items corresponding to said selected

disambiguation data field for each said retrieved database entry, wherein said speech interface is

used in conjunction with a system in which said database search is performed, and wherein said

speech interface provides users of said system with an interface for searching for information

contained within a database in which said database search was conducted and for audibly

receiving results of said database search.

Please amend claim 24 as follows:

A computer-implemented method of disambiguating database search results within a

speech interface, the method comprising:

retrieving multiple database entries responsive to a database search, wherein said

retrieved database entries include a plurality of common data fields;

processing the common data fields of said retrieved database entries, said processing

comprising identifying at least one first data field having at least one data item that exceeds a

predetermined maximum length, and excluding said at least one first data field from use as a

disambiguation data field based on said identification;

selecting a second data field from among said plurality of common data fields for use as a

disambiguation data field for the retrieved database entries; and

presenting, through the speech interface, data items corresponding to said selected

disambiguation data field for each said retrieved database entry, wherein said speech interface is

used in conjunction with a system in which said database search is performed, and wherein said

speech interface provides users of said system with an interface for searching for information

contained within a database in which said database search was conducted and for audibly

receiving results of said database search.

Cancel claims 22, 25, and 39-42.

Add claims 43, and 44.

Claim 43.   The method of claim 19, further comprising: receiving a user input

specifying a data item associated with said selected second data field to disambiguate said

retrieved database entries.

Claim 44.   The method of claim 24, wherein said selecting step comprises: selecting

the second data field based at least in part on an average length of data items of the second data

field.

Allowable Subject Matter

4.   Claims 19, 20, 23, 24, 27, 28, 43, and 44 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claim 19 teaches a computer-implemented method of disambiguating

database search results within a speech interface, wherein processing comprises identifying at

least one first data field having at least one data item that is unpronounceable, and excluding said

at least one first data field from use as a disambiguation data field based on said identification.

Independent claim 24 teaches a computer-implemented method of disambiguating

database search results within a speech interface, wherein processing comprises identifying at

least one first data field having at least one data item that exceeds a predetermined maximum

length, and excluding said at least one first data field from use as a disambiguation data field

based on said identification.

The prior art does not teach or suggest identifying at least one first data field having at

least one data item that is unpronounceable, and excluding said at least one first data field from

use as a disambiguation data field based on said identification. The prior art also does not teach

or suggest identifying at least one first data field having at least one data item that exceeds a

predetermined maximum length, and excluding said at least one first data field from use as a

disambiguation data field based on said identification.

Claims 20, 23, 27, 28, 43, and 44 are allowed for being dependent on allowed claims 19

and 24.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for

Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Abdelali Serrou whose telephone number is 571-272-7638. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David R. Hudspeth can be reached on 571-272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Abdelali Serrou/   /David R Hudspeth/
Examiner, Art Unit 2626   Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2626

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